Export of Granite

6285. SHRI SOM PAL:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 318 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 1994 and state the steps Government propose to take to boost the export of Indian granite?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): General measures taken to boost exports are applicable to granite exports. These include directions to banks to increase availability of credit to export sectors; reduction in interest rate on rupee-credit, reduction in tariff level on import of machinery and rendering of marketing assistance by Indian Missions. Income on export of processed granite is also eligible for income tax benefits under section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act.

The Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council is also engaged in providing assistance under its various programmes to granite exporting units. Export of granite products also sought to be encouraged under the scheme of 100 per cent Export Oriented Units.

Tobacco Export

6286. SHRI V. RAJESWAR RAO:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4300 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25.4.94 and to state:

(a) how does Indian tobacco compete in the International Market; and

(b) steps being taken to boost export of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total world exports of unmanufactured tobacco and share of India, Brazil, USA and Zimbabwe in world trade are given below:—

(Qty. in '000 tons)

Countries	1993	1992	1991	1990
World	1670	1624	1613	1462
India	101.7	65.0	76.8	66.5
% Share	6.09	4.00	4.76	4 55
Brazil	240.0	241.0	190.0	188.0
% Share	14.07	14.84	11.78	12.86
U.S.A.	250.0	26.0	226.0	223. 0
% Share	14.37	10.07	14.01	15.25
Zimbabwe	180.86	151.0	136.0	122.0
% Share	10.83	9.30	8.43	8.34

(Source : USDA 7/93 and Tobacco Board).